

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office
FLOOR DEBATE

May 9, 2001

LB 620

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I saw the Pages handing out a copy of this amendment. I doubt that anybody is going to be concerned enough to read all parts of it. The fact that Senator Kristensen and I both agree on it should give you a level of acceptance which will make it possible for you to vote in favor of this amendment. I want to say, in the same way that a person who is about to depart the scene forever, at least on this bill, until next year, I have not filibustered this bill. I have fought the good fight. I have kept the faith. I have finished my course. And, in the beginning, I predicted what would happen with this bill. It has too much power behind it to be prevented from passage, not lobbyists, not the Chamber of Commerce, but the Union Pacific as an almost mystical overwhelming entity. But I wanted to be sure that we had a record, a legislative record, of our consideration of various aspects of this bill and, if anybody with the Union Pacific or any other company that might use this bill is interested in smoothing the way for additional consideration from the Legislature, which they can get whenever they want it, they can look at some of the areas of disagreement and determine whether or not they can smooth some of those things out so we won't have to fight the same fights over and over and over. The reason I know Union Pacific will be back, once you give a drug addict the drug, an addiction sets in. The addict is not going to give it up and the addict is going to want more and more and more. And when the addict has a supplier as malleable and accommodating as this Legislature, I expect the addict to come back, but I don't expect the addict to be as brazen and lacking in consideration as the addict was this time around. I still maintain it was an out light...outright falsehood when Union Pacific said that unless a bill like this were enacted they would not bring their headquarters and those employees here. I knew in the beginning they would come here anyway. They're backing away from that position now. They should learn how to just be honest, recognize the power that they have in this and perhaps other legislatures, and just say this is what I demand, this is what I'm going to get, you had better give it to me. And they would have gotten it anyway. They would not have had to use falsehoods. So back to what is before us--the amendment that Senator Kristensen and I have agreed on. I hope you will vote to adopt it.